



Interior Dept. to impose fracking-disclosure rule
ACC SmartBrief to: Mary Hanley

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News for American Chemistry

Top Story

- [Interior Dept. to impose fracking-disclosure rule](#)
- Draft rules from the Department of the Interior would require natural gas companies to disclose the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing on federal lands. Companies should also guarantee that wastewater from fracking does not spill into the environment, according to the rules. "We will continue to gather public input throughout this process to ensure that the disclosure rule enhances public confidence in hydraulic fracturing on public lands, while also encouraging continued safe and responsible exploration and production for many decades to come," said Adam

Fletcher, a spokesman for the department. [Reuters](#) (2/3)

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Policy Watch

- [CFATS chief promises to improve program's performance](#)
- Rand Beers, undersecretary for the Department of Homeland Security's National Protection and Programs Directorate, defended the progress of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program during a House hearing on Friday. The program has received criticism for being behind on inspections. "As the report suggests, and as we acknowledged, [the program] still has a number of challenges to address. ... We will make the necessary course

correction to improve the program to protect the nation," Beers said. [FoxNews.com](#) (2/3)

- [Learn more from ACC about the industry's response to security](#)

- [Ethane cracker needn't be in Ohio to help the state, experts say](#)
- Ohio will gain thousands of chemical-industry jobs even if Shell sites its ethane-cracking facility elsewhere, according to experts. The pending development could be "the best thing that's probably ever happened to the chemical industry in Ohio," said Ohio Chemistry Technology Council President Jack Pounds. [The Columbus Dispatch \(Ohio\)/The](#)

[Associated Press](#) (2/5)

- **Ohio petroleum group opposes "severance" tax:** A policy group is suggesting a windfall tax on the profits of oil and natural gas drilling firms in Ohio, and the industry is opposing such a measure. The proposed tax is "an old, failed idea ... that could smother a growing industry and stifle the economic growth and energy security that many predict if the exploration proceeds safely and successfully," said Terry Fleming of the Ohio Petroleum Council. [The Columbus](#)

Dispatch (Ohio) (2/3)

- [Pa. could vote this week on county-based drilling fee](#)
- Pennsylvania's House and Senate could vote this week on legislation to allow counties to assess impact fees on natural gas drilling operations. "We are working diligently to finalize an agreement on Marcellus Shale that balances growth in the Marcellus sector because we want good jobs and capital brought to the region while also providing environmental protections," said state House Majority Leader Mike Turzai. [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review \(2/6\)](#),

[Pittsburgh Tribune-Review \(2/5\)](#)

- Other News
- [EPA seeks to add peer-review component to IRIS assessments](#)
- InsideEPA.com (subscription required) (2/3)
- [Survey: European chemical makers plan to submit 2,300 substances for REACH phase](#)
- Chemical Week (subscription required) (2/3)
- [Shale-gas rush hits roadblocks in Md., Va.](#)
- The Washington Post (2/5)

Costs are rising in China and Japan, prompting high-tech firms across Asia to consider new sourcing locations so they can remain efficient, while focusing more on service. What will be the impact of this behavioral shift? [**Learn about the findings in this free white paper.**](#)

Research & Innovation

- [DuPont polymer helps company cut energy use, waste](#)
- Dupont's Surlyn packaging film is being used by manufacturer Miele to protect bezels for washing machines, which helps reduce waste and energy, the companies said. The Surlyn polymer is also lighter than polyethylene but can be recycled in the same stream. [Environmental Leader \(2/3\)](#)
- Other News
- [U.S. universities to help establish India-based plastics college](#)
- PlasticsNews.com (2/3)

Leadership & Management

- [Why companies should hurry to develop leadership](#)
- Companies must develop the next generation of leaders, with high turnover expected as the economy improves, Diana O'Brien and Alice Kwan write. Among their suggestions: Identify and support future leaders and create meaning for them. "Practice leadership development by design, and become an organization that leaders seek out ... and stay with," they write. [FastCompany.com/FC Expert Blog \(1/31\)](#)

IT is crucial to efficient data-driven innovation

“Big Data” offer potential for targeted innovation, but only if IT departments can corral and organize all the information, writes John Hamm. [Financial Times/The Connected Business blog \(tiered subscription model\) \(2/1\)](#)

Increase Productivity, Reduce R&D Spending This webinar presents new concepts to improve productivity in the lab and discusses the challenges of implementing new technologies in the organic synthesis lab, their acceptance by chemists, and how a sustainable increase of productivity can be achieved. [Register for the webinar.](#)

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ACC News

ACC Weekly Economic Report

The economic reports this week were positive for the most part. Consumer confidence slipped, but light-vehicle sales for January reached their highest level since the recession and a recovery is on track. Consumer spending and personal incomes were weak, but that was for December, a month in which construction spending experienced a good gain. The January employment report was well above expectations with nonfarm payrolls rising at their highest pace since April 2011 and the unemployment rate falling to 8.3%, the lowest rate since February 2009.

Turning to chemistry, the details in the ISM manufacturing report indicate that the chemical industry was one of the manufacturing industries reporting contraction in January. This is reinforced by the pattern of the 13-week moving average in railcar loadings, but the employment report indicated rising employment and hours worked, suggesting expanding activity.

[Subscribe to ACC's Weekly Economic Report.](#)

Recycling of plastic bags and wraps climbs 50% in five years

The recycling of postconsumer plastic bags and wraps -- a category known as plastic film -- reached a record high of nearly 972 million pounds in 2010, according to a national report developed by Moore Recycling Associates on behalf of the American Chemistry Council. [Learn more.](#)

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Top five news stories selected by ACC SmartBrief readers in the past week.

[Bayer CEO: U.S. needs more diverse innovators to stay competitive](#) (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)

[EPA fails to release dioxin assessment before January deadline](#) (The Wall Street Journal)

[Cabot: EPA manipulated water-contamination test results in Pa. town](#) (The Philadelphia Inquirer)

[ACC-supported coalition to focus on making vehicles lighter](#) (PlasticsToday.com)

[Plastics, chemical industries remain vigilant for 2012 legislation](#) (PlasticsNews.com)

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SmartQuote

He who is afraid to ask is ashamed of learning."

--Danish proverb

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